National Perspective Plan to increase availability of ground water

1898. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources has prepared a National Perspective Plan to increase the availability of ground water;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government with regard to increase ground water in the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A study has been carried out by the Central Ground Water Board on the concept of recharge of ground water by utilising surplus monsoon run-off in the country.

(b) The study is only on internal technical exercise on the possibilities of ground water recharge based on macro-level consideration of the geological formations in various river basins.

(c) Does not arise.

Sardar Sarovar Project

1899. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some differences have come up among the concerned States, in respect of Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the main features thereof and steps being taken to send them out; and

(c) the present progress of the project and steps being taken to expedite its early completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The issue regarding the proposal of the Government of Madhya Pradesh for reduction in the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam from 455 feet to 436 feet and availability of water from part of the writ Petition (Civil) No. 319 of 1994 in the matter of Narmada Bachao Andolan versus Union of India and others which is presently under consideration by the Supreme Court of India and hence, the matter is subjudice.

(c) *Progress in construction of the Project:*

A. *Physical progress as on* 31-1-1995:

Sl. No.	Component	Excavation %	Concreting %	Drilling %
1	2	3	4	5
1	Main Dam . .	89.87	72.46	75.89
2	River Bed . .	92.46	(Open)	
	Power House .	84.82	(Underground)	
3	Canal Head Power House	nearing completion	96.12	
4	Vadgam Saddle Dam .	Nearing Completion	99.05	

1	2	3	4	5
5	Narmada Main Canal (0 to 144 Km)	Earthwork %	Lining %	Structural Concrete %
		94 80 (Excavation)	80.64	64.97
6	Branch Canals Phase-1(0 to 144.5 Km)	78.27	52.39 (con) 37.75 (Brick)	63.02
7	Distribution System (0 to 144 Km) . .	60.38	33.79	36.21

B. *Financial Progress*

An expenditure of Rs. 3690.42 crores has been incurred on the project upto January, 1995.

All possible steps are being taken to complete the project as planned by 2000 A.D. However, completion of the dam depends upon the progress of Resettlement & Rehabilitation works and environmental safeguard measures complying with 'Pari-pasu' condition in the teritorries of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Depletion of underground water

1900. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the 'Economic Times' dated the 18th January, 1995 under the caption 'Fresh waterway prevented salination in Madras: Study";

(b) whether further depletion of underground water tables in the coastal areas is likely to cause salination of underground waters in all the coastal regions of the country;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to check this serious threat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Situation various from one place to another. The possibilities of sea water ingress are more in Tamil Nadu and Saurashtra coasts than any other region in the country.

(c) The steps so far initiated in this direction are as follows:

(1) A Model Bill to control and regulate the development of ground water has been circulated by Union Government to all States for enactment of a suitable Legislation for ensuring extraction of ground water within the permissible limits.

(2) The behaviour of sea water and fresh water interface along the coast in the country is closely monitored by the Central Ground Water Board and State Organisations.

(3) The Government of Tamil Nadu has promulgated Madras Metropolitan Area Ground Water Regulation Act, 1987 for regulating extraction of Ground Water in Chinglepettu district covering Madras Metropolis, which envisages prior permission for sinking a new well.